

NEWS RELEASE

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Corps to hold public hearing sessions on federal channel deeping proposal

NEW YORK -- A public hearing on a proposal by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to deepen a portion of the Kill Van Kull/Newark Bay Federal Navigation Channel to 50 feet below mean low water will be held on Jan. 24, 2002 at the Bayonne City Hall Municipal Council Chamber, Bayonne, N.J. The hearing will be conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District for the purpose of gathering additional information needed to make a permit decision.

The portion of the navigation channel proposed for deepening to 50 feet at this time is located on the New Jersey side of the Kill Van Kull in the southwestern portion of Bayonne and includes the turn at Bergen Point and the entrance to southern Newark Bay.

The proposed work would consist of drilling, blasting, and dredging approximately 1.5 million cubic yards of rock and sediment from the channel to deepen it from 45 to 50 feet. The proposed work, if authorized, would be done in conjunction with an ongoing Federal project to deepen the channel from 40 to 45 feet.

Rock would comprise approximately 75 – 80 percent of the material that would be dredged. It would be used to enhance artificial fishing reefs and to stabilize parts of the Bayonne shoreline. Dredged sediment would be beneficially reused at an upland site, placed as remediation material at the Historic Area Remediation Site, or disposed of in the Newark Bay Confined Disposal Facility depending upon its physical and chemical characteristics and biological effects data.

The afternoon session of the hearing will run from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and the evening session from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. All members of the public are invited to attend.